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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/002,623	11/01/2001	Peter J. Oefner	STAN-212	1933

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EXAMINER

SAKELARIS, SALLY A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1634

DATE MAILED: 08/27/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/002,623

Applicant(s)

OEFNER ET AL.

Examiner

Sally A Sakelaris

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11/1/2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-9, 12-17, and 27 drawn to a method for determining the ethnic origin of a male and for determining the paternity of a human male through the detection of nucleic acids as classified in for example, class 435, subclasses 6 and 91.2.
- II. Claims 10-11 and 18-26, drawn to isolated nucleic acids, primers, and kits for amplification of a plurality of polymorphic regions as classified in class 435, subclass 6, 69.1, 252.3 and 320.1 and Class 536, subclass 23.1, 23.5, 24.31 and 24.33.

1. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

a. Inventions I and II are related as products and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the polynucleotides of invention II can be used in a materially different process such as for RFLP analysis.

Sequence Election Requirement Applicable to All Groups:

2. Portions of MPEP 803.04 are repeated herein for Applicant's convenience.

“Examples of typical nucleotide sequence claims impacted by the partial waiver of 37 CFR 1.141 et seq. (and the partial waiver of 37 CFR 1.475 and 1.499 et seq., see

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MPEP § 1850) include...C) a combination of DNA fragments, said combination containing at least thirty different DNA fragments selected from SEQ ID Nos. 1-1,000...Applications containing only composition claims reciting different combinations of individual nucleotide sequences, such as set forth in example (C), will be subject to a restriction requirement. Applicants will be required to select one combination for examination. If the selected combination contains ten or fewer sequences, all of the sequences of the combination will be searched. If the selected combination contains more than ten sequences, the combination will be examined following the procedures set forth above for example (B). More specifically, the combination will be searched until one nucleotide sequence is found to be allowable with the examiner choosing the order of search to maximize the identification of an allowable sequence. The identification of any allowable sequence(s) will cause all combinations containing the allowed sequence(s) to be allowed.”

Groups I and II include claims that recite groupings of at least 10 different haplotype groups, 321 different polymorphic markers, and as many primer pairs. Additionally, the dependent claims recite groupings of 10, 11, 15, and 12 (Claims 13-16 respectively) polymorphic markers from Table 1 of the specification. Thus, the claims read on a multitude of groupings of polymorphic markers, primers, and haplotypes each of which is separate and distinct one from another because they contain nucleic acid sequences that are structurally separate from one another. The search and examination of all possible groups would pose an enormous burden on the examiner and on the PTO search resources. In accordance with MPEP 803.04, applicant is required to select one combination of polymorphic markers for examination with the elected group from those markers set forth in Table 1. Upon election of the single combination of polymorphic markers, applicant should identify where in the appropriate table each sequence is recited and applicant should further identify the single haplotype to which the group of polymorphic markers belong and further to the single primer pair used to amplify each of the polymorphic markers in the elected group. If the single combination selected by applicant contains more or less than the number of markers recited in a particular claim, the relevant claims will be treated as non-elected claims, as appropriate. For example, if the combination of claim 13 is elected, claims 14, 15, and 16, will be considered as non-elected claims. Additionally, if the combination in claim 13 of only M91, M60, and M96 were elected, then claim 13 would be non-elected because it requires a different combination. Applicant must clearly define their election with respect to the corresponding SEQ ID NOS that they are electing and the positions of each of the polymorphic markers in the SEQ ID NOS.

The search of the selected sequence may include the complements of the selected sequences and, where appropriate, may include subsequences within the selected sequences (e.g., oligomeric probes and/or primers).

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Nucleotide sequences with different compositions are structurally distinct chemical compounds and are unrelated to one another. These sequences are thus deemed to normally constitute independent and distinct inventions within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 121. Absent evidence to the contrary, each such nucleotide sequences are presumed to represent an independent and distinct invention, subject to a restriction requirement pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 121 and 37 CFR 1.141 et seq.

3. Applicant is advised that examination will be restricted to only the methods or products as they recite the elected polymorphic markers and should not be construed as a species election.

4. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement, to be complete, must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

5. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Sally Sakelaris whose telephone number is (703) 306-0284. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:30AM-5:00PM and Friday from 1:00PM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, W.Gary Jones, can be reached on (703)308-1152. The fax number for the Technology Center is (703)305-3014 or (703)305-4242.

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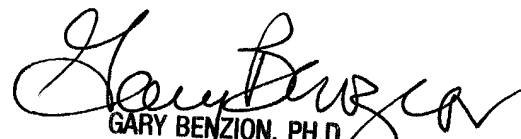
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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to Chantae Dessau whose telephone number is (703)605-1237.

Sally Sakelaris

8/21/03



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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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